[15th March 1952

Extent of dis-reserved forests.

* 77 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state what the area of forests dis-reserved during the years 1946–51 (year-war) is?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The particulars are furnished below :—

Year.				Total area disreserved in acres.
1946	..	..	..	2,102·75
1947	..	..	..	4,000·92
1948	..	..	..	680·39
1949	..	..	..	1,688·49
1950	..	..	..	5,988·05
1951	..	..	..	12,602·12
		Total	..	27,062·72

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know what the reasons for dis-reservation of forest areas were? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" For every case there is some reason or other."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" May I know whether this dis-reservation was resorted to in order to help the Harijans or the landless people to secure land for cultivation? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" For those purposes also, i.e., for helping the people belonging to the backward classes who really deserved help."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Was it for the purpose of assigning lands to political sufferers? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It may be so in some cases."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" May I know whether before dis-reservation of forests, the Government tried to find out the necessary extent of forest area existing within the State which should be maintained in the interests of agriculture and rainfall? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" They certainly examined all the conditions, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know what happened to the trees on the forest lands in the cases where forests were dis-reserved and assigned to the various parties selected by the Hon. Minister? Were they cut, or were they given free to the assignees, or did the Government stipulate any price and get money? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" If the area is mentioned, I will go into the question and supply the information required."

15th March 1952]

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" May I know whether the minimum of forests required in each area had been kept up while this process of disreservation was being carried out? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Is it a fact that in many cases where this disreservation took place, there were only shrubs and not jungles? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The hon. Member knows it well, Sir. I need not answer it, because he was in charge of the subject till recently."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" As against the suggestion made by the hon. Member, Sri Kala Venkata Rao, that there were many cases where there were only shrubs, is it not a fact that there were also many cases where there were actually trees on the land? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It might be that in some cases where disreservation of forest areas took place, there were some trees, but if particular cases are mentioned, I shall find out whether there were trees or shrubs."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Before these areas were disreserved and the trees were cut, did the Government examine the question how it would affect the rainfall in the State? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I think we are perhaps deviating from the main question and, therefore, I am not able to answer the question."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Sir, this question relates to disreservation of forests by the Government. I am asking whether before that disreservation took place, the Government examined the question how it would affect adversely the rainfall."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It has been gone into."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Is it a fact that when disreservation took place, steps were taken by the Government to grow trees in areas larger than the areas disreserved? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" If there are such large areas where there are only shrubs as mentioned by the hon. Gentleman, Sri Kala Venkata Rao, will the Government examine the question and expedite disreservation and assignment so that poor people may grow food crops? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" We shall examine the question, Sir."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" Is it a fact that the plantation scheme and the Government's efforts to grow more trees were a failure? " 3 p.m.

[15th March 1952

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I do not admit that it was a failure. The Government of this State propose to follow the general principles underlined in the scheme formulated by the Government of India in regard to this matter."

Dr. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" May I know the difference in height between the terms ' shrub ' and ' tree '? " (Laughter.)

Sri S. B. ADITYAN :—" If, as mentioned by the ex-Revenue Minister, Sri Kala Venkata Rao, attempts have been made to plant new trees, may I know what justification can there be for cutting off existing trees and assigning lands? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" There would have been very strong reasons for doing so."

Sri S. B. ADITYAN :—" Will the Hon. the Minister disclose to this House the reasons that prompted the Government to cut these trees in those areas which has adversely affected the rainfall of the State? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" If specific cases of irregularities are brought to the notice of the Government, we will certainly look into the matter."

Sri KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Is it not a fact that the trees that are alleged to have been cut are either date trees or palmyra trees or small tamarind trees and not big trees of the type of madhi or teak? " (Laughter.)

Sri S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it right for an ex-Minister to make statements of this nature? "

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" I take it that the Hon. Minister wants notice." (Laughter.)

Sri KALA VENKATA RAO :—" I only want that the Hon. Minister should make a statement clarifying the exact position in regard to this matter as some of the hon. Members' questions contain the implication that there had been wholesale and indiscriminate cutting of trees."

Janab K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" May I know whether such statements can be made by ex-Ministers? Is it in order for an ex-Minister to supply information to the Hon. Minister in the form of a question? "

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" The hon. Member himself has done the same thing." (Laughter.)

Dr. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" Are the Government aware that the failure of monsoon is to a large extent due to the denudation of forests? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It is a matter of opinion."

15th March 1952]

SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" May I know whether the Government have brought additional forests under reservation recently or within the last three or four years? "

AN HON. MEMBER :—" That is again another leading question." (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know whether the figure 27,000 odd acres given by the Hon. Minister shows a net loss of the reserved forests? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" No, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government are of the opinion, as stated just now by Sri Kala Venkata Rao, that tamarind trees are shrubs? " (Laughter.)

Training for adult citizens in all the polytechnics.

* 78 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : With reference to the answers to the main question No. 36 and to the supplementary question, dated 7th September 1951, will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether the question of providing training for adult civilians in all the polytechnics in the State, especially in the Rayalaseema Polytechnic, Bellary, has been considered?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" The question of providing training for adult civilians was considered not in all but only in such of the polytechnics where facilities existed for such training. A technical training centre for adult civilians was first started in the Rayalaseema Polytechnic, Bellary, but it had to be closed down subsequently in order to provide for an adult training centre for women at Madras. No separate technical training at Bellary was considered necessary in view of the existence of another centre at Anantapur in the neighbouring district."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Do the Government have any proposal to start more such centres in every area where the need for them exists? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" In last September I have answered that there were nearly five such adult training centres."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Do the Government consider that five centres are adequate for a big State like Madras? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" If the finances permit, we will consider the opening of more centres."